

All Saints Messenger

October 2006

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Does God accept "bungs"?

The BBC programme Panorama has allegedly uncovered a world of secret payments and dodgy deals in English football. Bolton Wanderers manager Sam Allardyce is specifically accused, with his son Craig who is an agent.

A bung is when a manager accepts a payment so that a transfer deal can go through. "You let me buy the player for another club, I'll slip you £100,000."

The way that most people think that God works is by accepting "Bungs".

"You let me into to heaven and I'll go to church a few times."

"You cure my wife's cancer and I'll try to live a better life."



"You make sure my kid grows up to be nice and I'll get him christened."

We assume that God says "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours". That he wants us to do him a few favours for then he will look after us. It was brought home to me when a couple turned up at church who didn't often come. They told me how they had been involved in a car accident earlier in the

week, but come out unscathed, so they'd come to thank God.

"You keep me safe on the roads, I'll go to church."



The Bible makes it very clear that God is not interested in our bungs. In fact he hates our half-hearted attempts to win him over. This is what he says to his people Israel when they think that a bit of religion is what God wants. "Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. ...I cannot bear your evil assemblies." (*Isaiah 1:14*)

God can't be bought. He is completely just. He will treat us exactly as we deserve. Which means that after death we will face his judgement and condemnation. Because God's verdict on us is "There is no one righteous, not even one" (*Romans 3:10*)

There is a transfer deal that God offers us. To secure it we don't have to pay Him a bung. We don't even have to pay a fee. It is a free transfer of our rejection of God, failure and wrong doing (what the Bible calls unrighteousness), on to Jesus. It means that we can have a relationship with God and a home in heaven. "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

If you're trying to buy God with a bung why not come along to All Saints or to one of our CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED courses to find out about His offer of a free transfer.

All Saints is your local Parish Church Family. We welcome **all people** whatever there background or faith to come and join us as we look at who Jesus is , why He came and what it means to follow Him.

You are warmly invited to a

Christianity Explored

Dinner (free)

Tuesday 3rd October 2006

@ All Saints Church, 7.30pm

'Christianity: boring,
irrelevant, untrue?'

'the brew'



Toddler group and coffee morning.

**Thursdays
10-11.30am**

Everyone is welcome! Come and join us for a brew.
Play area for toddlers.



All Saints, Elizabeth St.



Youth Club for School Years 3-7

Mondays 6:30- 7:30pm @ the church

Runs every Monday night during term time!

Cost - only 30p!

A great time for playing games, competitions, eating tuck, meeting others and a short interactive talk about the Christian faith.

All Welcome!

CHILL OUT

Tuesday 7-9pm @ All Saints

**Pool
Table
Tennis
Food
Games
or..
Sitting
round
doing
nothing!
Friends
God slot**

**Years 8-12
FREE**

Come
And
Meet
Each
Other

A Lunch Club for everyone!

2nd Wednesday in the month @ the church hall

Wednesday 11th October

Cost - £1.50 for a cooked lunch!

A great time for meeting new people, with a talk or presentation on a variety of subjects.

All Welcome!



Sunday meetings

October 1st

10.30am Harvest service

5.00pm Traditional service

7.00pm Saints @7
(Café style meeting in Hall.)

ALL WELCOME.

**For more information about other Church activities
see www.allsaintspreston.org.uk or call 01772 885687**